

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

181230Z Nov 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 007850

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;
EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA
FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR
AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;
ROME/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - Alleged CIA Prisons and
Flights - General Elections in Israel

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

Alleged CIA Prisons and Flights
General Elections in Israel

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

The opening of the Socialist Congress in Le Mans, marked by infighting within the party dominates a number of headlines and editorials. With the presidential elections only 18 months away, resolving the party's problems will be a crucial task agree most dailies.

The top international stories include one of today's leads in Le Figaro: "Secret CIA Prisons: Europe Concerned." Liberation's front-page claims that the McCain amendment on torture has "America Divided." (See Part C)

Le Monde mentions the "Controversy in Europe on the CIA's Secret Flights." Dailies report that officials in Spain,

SIPDIS

Sweden, Norway and in the European Parliament either have opened formal inquiries or demanded answers from US officials about CIA flights. Le Figaro's article asks: "the question today is to know if the global war on terrorism has turned into a 'dirty' war."

Le Figaro reports Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and new Labor Party Leader Peretz's decision to hold elections that could take place as early as the end of February. (See Part C)

The terror suspect who allegedly financed the attacks in Paris in 1995, Rachid Ramda, is on the verge of being extradited to France. Paris has been asking London for his extradition for the past ten years. "Better late than never" claims France Soir. Le Monde reports that another person suspected of having taken part in the 2004 attacks in Madrid and held in London is also due to be extradited to Spain. The daily suggests that: "these two events could mark a change on the part of London that has consistently refused to cooperate with other European countries in the fight against terrorism."

Dailies mention that trade negotiations will be the central theme of the APEC Summit and regional editorials are critical of President Bush's tour of Asia. Jacques Guyon writes in regional La Charente Libre: "Apparently George Bush never tires of. handing out good and bad grades to countries in terms of democracy. His arrogance, his pseudo-prophetic attitude towards democracy looks like a headlong rush when at home he is increasingly unpopular."

Le Figaro also reports President Bush's visit to South Korea: "In diplomatic terms, polite phrases between leaders are usually the bandage that hides the fracture. This was the case during the bilateral meeting yesterday when George W. Bush and his South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-hyun repeated that their alliance has never been stronger."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Alleged CIA Prisons and Flights

"Brute Force"

The editorial in left-of-center Liberation by Patrick Sabatier (11/18): "The argument that all means necessary can be deployed to prevent the loss of innocent lives, including disrespect for the law, parallel battlefields and the use of torture. is false and dangerous. Torture cannot be authorized and less still legalized. It took a former war hero. the ultra-conservative John McCain to remind America that torturing a prisoner is an odious crime. The fact that the CIA, with the complicity of allied regimes, 'outsourced' the torture of prisoners far from American soil adds hypocrisy and cowardice to a political and moral blunder."

General Elections in Israel

"A Redistribution of the Cards in Israel"

Pierre Rousselin for right-of-center Le Figaro (11/18): "The advent of Amir Peretz at the head of the Israeli Labor Party has shaken up domestic politics in Israel and could have repercussions on the peace process with the Palestinians. Everything will depend on what happens on the Palestinian side after the legislative elections in January. The American Secretary of State gave a significant boost to Mahmoud Abbas

SIPDIS

by forcing Ariel Sharon to sign an agreement concerning the Gaza border. This agreement is important for three reasons. It gives the Palestinians a degree of sovereignty. It provides for the deployment of EU observers. and above all it signifies an increased commitment on the part of American diplomacy to the peace process."

STAPLETON